

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air "Stolen Honor", an obviously politically partisan anti-Kerry documentary, days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair, whose programming reaches nearly 25% of the viewing public, uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. One-sided programs like "Stolen Honor" do not serve the public interest.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the corporate bottom line and political cronies and less of what we need for our democracy. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive, fairly balanced news about issues that matter, rather than programming dictated by the corporate bosses from afar.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.